

## SARL NEWS SUNDAY 20 APRIL 2008

You are listening to ZS6SRL the official Radio Station of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is transmitted every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. To listen to a web stream visit [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), click on ARMI and follow the links for details. PLEASE NOTE! For audio via Echolink, connect to ZS0JPL-R.

You can download this and previous bulletins from [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and you can also subscribe there to receive future bulletins by email.

Your newsreader this morning is (name), (callsign), on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with relays on 28,325, 14,235, 10,130, 7,066 and 3,695 MHz SSB as well as 51,400, 438,825 and 1 296 MHz FM in the Pretoria area. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

In today's SARL News:

GAIN TWO MONTHS' FREE SARL MEMBERSHIP BY JOINING NOW

PRESIDENT'S NET TODAY AT 19:00

ILLEGAL HANDHELDS?

INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY EVENT IS APRIL 26

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

GAIN TWO MONTHS' FREE SARL MEMBERSHIP BY JOINING NOW

Join the SARL now and get May and June free of charge. All applications for membership submitted now will be charged at the discounted rate of R305 and will cover membership till 30 June 2009. Application forms are available on the web at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). Download it now and follow the payment details on the form and on the web page. If you need assistance call Vee on 011 675 2393 Mondays to Fridays between 08:30 and 13:00.

The special membership fee for members over 65 is R230 and with a 20% rebate it is only R184 receiving May and June membership free of charge.

PRESIDENT'S NET TODAY AT 19:00

Join Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, the outgoing President of the SARL and Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, the newly elected President for the President's Net this evening at 19:00. Clubs wishing to book a link should send an Email to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) before noon today. There will be no Intecnet this evening. The Intecnet will return in May. Watch this space for details.

CONTEST NEWS

This afternoon from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT you can take part in the Autumn QRP Sprint on the 40 metre band. You can participate as a Portable or Fixed

Station using CW or phone or Mixed. Power output is 5 watt or 1 watt or 100 milliwatt. The exchange is a RS or RST report and the year first licensed. Only wire antennas may be used. Each contact counts 2 points, each prefix worked counts 2 points then multiply the QSO score with the prefix score and multiply with the power multiplier: 5 watt x 1, 1 watt x 5 or 100 milliwatt x 10.

Log sheets shall be submitted within 15 days after the contest and can be sent by email to [hfcontests@netactive.co.za](mailto:hfcontests@netactive.co.za) or by snail mail to The Contest Committee, PO Box 12 104, Brandhof, 9324. The closing date is 5 May 2008.

#### INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY EVENT IS APRIL 26

(Summarised from ARRL News)

Special event stations will be on the air Saturday, April 26 (UTC), to mark International Marconi Day (IMD), a 24-hour Amateur Radio event commemorating the birth of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi on April 25, 1874.

Participants can qualify for awards by making contacts on 160 through 10 meters (CW, SSB and digital) with designated IMD stations operating on or near a site where Marconi carried out experiments or where Marconi equipment was used prior to his death in 1937.

More information on International Marconi Day can be found on the IMD Web site <http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/>. The IMD Web site has a list of IMD 2008 award stations <http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/awardstns.htm>.

#### CLUB NEWS

##### FROM PEARS

Eighteen members of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society were involved in providing communications for the "Eastern Cape 500 Off-Road Race" which took place on 18 and 19 April in the general area of Port Elizabeth, much of it in the Longmore Forest. The event was organized by the Algoa Motorsport Club, who also organises the annual VW Rally, for which PEARS has been providing the communications ever since its inception in the mid 1980's.

This event is one of the national series in the sponsored ABSA National Off-Road Championship. There were something like 45 competitors, including a few international entrants.

##### FROM KEMPTON PARK

The Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society (KARTS) will have a Special Event station with the club's callsign of ZS6KTS from 1 to 3 May 2008 in the Potchefstroom district. The station will be on the air from 08:00 - 22:00 using SSB in the 40 m and 20 m band. QSO's will be acknowledged via the Electronic QSL system of the league.

#### ILLEGAL HANDHELDS?

What follows is an extract from this week's WIANews which shows what is happening on amateur radio spectrum; radio amateurs, be on the alert, it can happen here or anywhere.

"It was no laughing matter when signals popped up on 70 cm band during the recent Melbourne Comedy Festival.

Staff of a security company were equipped with imported Chinese made hand-held radios. They believed the radios were CB radios and okay to use for communications on the streets of Central Melbourne.

The ACMA acted quickly on reports of the intruders and was taking appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Radiocommunications Act.

The fear among the amateur radio community is that this incident could be just the start of many more commercial uses of similar radios. That fear comes amid reports of another intrusion on the 70 cm for valet parking at a major Melbourne entertainment complex.

It's important that radio amateurs let the ACMA get on with its job of investigation and enforcement.

Attempts to engage in on air discussion with the intruders may be a breach of our amateur licence conditions, but can also frustrate ACMA investigations if the offender goes QSY".

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the expected solar activity will be very low. The geomagnetic field is expected to be mostly quiet from 23 till 25 April when major storm levels are expected. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 5.

DX conditions will generally be good to the North and poor in the general North-Westerly directions. 15 m and 20 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 15 and 20 m openings towards India from about 14:00 CAT. Conditions to Australia will be very challenging. From 16:00 there may be good 10, 15 and 20 m openings towards Europe. Contacts with the USA are going to be very challenging.

10 MHz is looking promising after dark for the CW and digital enthusiasts.

Local conditions are going to be good on 40 m during the day time. 30 m may perform well during the middle of the day over the longer distances. 80 m is the frequency of choice in the evenings, thunderstorms and static permitting!

Remember that this is only a prediction and that HF always has the capability to surprise you, but you will never know unless you switch your rig on, listen and also call CQ.

Please visit [www.spaceweather.co.za](http://www.spaceweather.co.za) for further information.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

20 April - The Autumn QRP Sprint. 20 April - President's Net tonight; 26 April - International Marconi Day; 5 May - Logsheets for the Autumn QRP Sprint to be in.

SARL News invites clubs and individuals to submit news stories of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners. Submit news stories if possible in both English and Afrikaans to [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

The SARL also invites you to listen to the programme Amateur Radio Mirror International, on the air every Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 590 kHz. For the web stream and Echolink by ZS0JPL-R visit [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), click on ARMI and follow the links. A repeat transmission can be heard Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz. Sentech sponsors the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

George, ZS6NE, compiled today's South African Radio League news bulletin.

Thank you for listening. 73.

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